

# An Additional New Species to the Genus *Scaphoxium* Fauna (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) of the Ryukyus, Japan

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**Abstract.** A new species of the genus *Scaphoxium* Löbl, 1979, *S. saigo*i sp. nov., is described from Amami-Ōshima Is., the Ryukyus, Japan. As a result of this study, the number of Japanese species of *Scaphoxium* becomes five.

## Introduction

The genus *Scaphoxium* Löbl, 1979 belongs to the subfamily Scaphidiinae of the family Staphylinidae (Löbl, 1997). In Japan, Löbl (1981) recorded this genus for the first time from Honshu, Japan, with a description of a new species, *S. japonicum*. Later, Hoshina & Sugaya (2003) and Hoshina (2008) added one and two species to the Japanese fauna of *Scaphoxium*, respectively. As a result of those studies, four species of *Scaphoxium* have been known to occur in Japan.

Recently, I had an opportunity to examine four specimens of *Scaphoxium*, collected from Amami-Ōshima Is., the Ryukyus, Japan. My careful examination showed that those belong to a new member of *Scaphoxium*. In this paper, I describe the new species, *Scaphoxium saigo*i sp. nov.

The holotype designated in this study is deposited in the collection of the Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyōgo (MNHA). Paratypes are preserved in the author's collection.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Kenji Kusano (Fukushima Pref.) who gave me an opportunity to examine a valuable specimen.

## Key to Species of the Genus *Scaphoxium* in the Ryukyus

1. Body more than 2 mm in length; sutural stria of elytra terminating at near posterior margins of pronotum. . . . . *Scaphoxium hiranoi* Hoshina
- Body less than 2 mm in length; sutural stria distant from posterior margins of pronotum (Fig. 1). . . . . 2

2. Dorsum dark brown. . . . . *S. saigo* sp. nov.  
 -. Dorsum brown or reddish brown. . . . . 3  
 3. Median lobe of aedeagus relatively robust in ventral view. . . . . *S. taiwanum* Löbl  
 -. Median lobe of aedeagus relatively slender. . . . . *S. kunigamiense* Hoshina et Sugaya

### ***Scaphoxium saigo* Hoshina, sp. nov.**

(Japanese name: Saigō-nagakeshi-deokinokomushi)

(Figs. 1-7)

Male and female. Coloration. Dorsum shining, and almost concolorous, dark brown; 1st-2nd segments of antennae brown; 3rd-5th segments whitish brown; 6th-11th segments a little darkish brown; tarsi light brown; other parts of legs brown; propygidium and pygidium light brown; undersurface shining; mesosternum, metasternum, and venter brown.

Measurement of holotype: Body 1.7 mm in length; head 0.30 mm in length (from anterior margin of labrum to base) and 0.36 mm in width; pronotum 0.66 mm in length and 0.76 mm in width; elytra 1.0 mm in length and 0.78 mm in width.

Body almost glabrous, and about 2.1 times as long as wide.

Head about 1.1 times as wide as long, almost impunctate, and smooth; length and width of head about 0.53 times and about 0.49 times as long as those of pronotum, respectively; frons flat; all segments of antennae longer than wide; relative lengths of antennal segments from 2nd to 11th segments as follows: 2.4: 1.2: 1.3: 1.7: 1.3: 1.7: 1.2: 1.8: 1.8: 2.7; 11th segment slender-oval (Fig. 3).

Pronotum about 1.2 times as wide as long, slightly narrower and about 0.64 times as long as elytra, widest at base, simply curved and narrowing towards the apex along lateral margins, strongly sinuate in the middle of posterior margin in dorsal view (Fig. 1), moderately projected basally at latero-ventral margins in lateral view (Fig. 2), and almost smooth and impunctate.

Scutellum covered with the prominent portion of pronotum and almost invisible in dorsal view (Fig. 1).

Elytra widest at about 1/6 from base (Fig. 1), about 1.3 times as long as wide, almost smooth, and sparsely and very minutely punctate; sutural stria fine, and about 0.70 times as long as elytra (Fig. 1).

Propygidium and pygidium almost impunctate, weakly microreticulate, and sparsely pubescent.

Undersurface almost impunctate and glabrous.

Legs slender; all tibiae simply stick-like.

Male. Aedeagus slender (Figs. 4-6), about 0.88 mm in length (from base of the median lobe to apex of parameres) and 0.23 mm in width in ventral view; the median lobe narrowed from apical 1/3 to apex, pointed at apex in ventral and dorsal views, and robust in lateral view; parameres relatively thick, almost straight in ventral and dorsal views, round at apex, and without apical setae; inner sac bearing a pair of slender sclerites (Fig. 7).

Body length. 1.6-1.8 mm.

Distribution. Japan: the Ryukyus (Amami-Ōshima Is.).

Type series. Holotype, ♂, Mt. Kōchi, Amami-Ōshima Is., Kagoshima Pref., 9. iv. 1996, H. Hoshina leg. (MNHA). Paratypes, 2♀♀, same data as holotype; 1♀, Materia-no-taki (alt. 190-200 m), Amami-Ōshima Is., Kagoshima Pref., 19. ix. 1999, K. Kusano leg.

Remarks. The present new species can be easily distinguished from *Scaphoxium hiranoi* Hoshina, 2008, by having a small body. *S. saigo* sp. nov. is similar to *S. taiwanum* described by Löbl (1980), but the median lobe of aedeagus in the former species is relatively slender in ventral and dorsal views (Figs. 5 and 6).

Etymology. This new species is dedicated to a hero, Takamori Saigō (1827-1877), who had been exiled to Amami-Ōshima Is.

## References

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## Explanations of Figures

Figs. 1-3. *Scaphoxium saigo*i sp. nov. 1, body. 2, pronotum, lateral view. 3, antenna. Scale A: 1 mm for Figs. 1 and 2. Scale B: 0.5 mm for Fig. 3.

Figs. 4-7. *Scaphoxium saigo*i sp. nov. 4-6, aedeagus. 4, ventral view. 5, dorsal view. 6, lateral view. 7, inner sac of median lobe, dorsal view. Scale: 0.5 mm for Figs. 4-6 and 0.3 mm for Fig. 7.



